



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

**Solid Waste Management Division
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Debris Program Garners First Participants

The County of San Bernardino is well on its way to removing debris from mountain communities so that residents who lost homes can begin their journey to recovery. In only one week, the County has received 40 completed Right-of-Entry applications, and has confirmation that Right-of-Entry application materials have been delivered to owners of 192 properties affected by the October fires. County contractors are giving first priority for debris removal to those areas that have the greatest concentration of signees, so residents are encouraged to work with their neighbors to get signed up for the program. For more information, or to enroll in the debris removal program, please call the Debris Removal Center at (909) 867-7579. The program is offered by the County of San Bernardino at no direct cost to the residents.

Questions have arisen regarding the ability to rebuild structures. The Debris Removal Program provides participating property owners with a comprehensive debris removal service including the removal of foundations. However, if a property owner wants to rebuild on the existing foundation, the property owner will need to have the foundation inspected and certified, at their own expense, as rebuildable by an engineer or testing lab. Foundations can be compromised if exposed to temperatures exceeding 300 degrees, so many foundations that may appear sound could very well be unstable and will need to be removed. If directed by the property owner, foundations will be left intact by the debris program.

The San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department will work with property owners to determine how a structure may be rebuilt at its previous location on a case-by-case basis. All rebuilding projects, including those proposed for surviving foundations, will have to comply with current California Building Code Regulations and, where feasible, County setback requirements. Variances may be granted for cases of extreme hardship. To assist property owners in making an informed decision, the Building and Safety Division offers a pre-alteration inspection at no cost to owners. For more information please contact the Building and Safety office in Twin Peaks at (909) 336-0640.

Prior to removing a foundation, the County Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) will compare the detailed structure sketches in the Assessor's records to foundations as they exist on the ground. SWMD will measure from a minimum of three (3) foundation corners to objects that will remain after cleanup. This information will be provided to the property owner with their debris removal report, and can be available earlier if requested. Retaining walls including foundations retaining soil may be left in place as an erosion control measure. Property owners with retaining structures left intact can leave them in place, remove them at their own expense, or build around them.

The Debris Removal Center is located at 2677 Whispering Pines Drive, in Running Springs and is open Monday through Friday 10 am - 4 pm and Saturdays 10 am - 3 pm. For more information please call 909-867-7579 or visit www.sbcounty.gov/wsd.

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